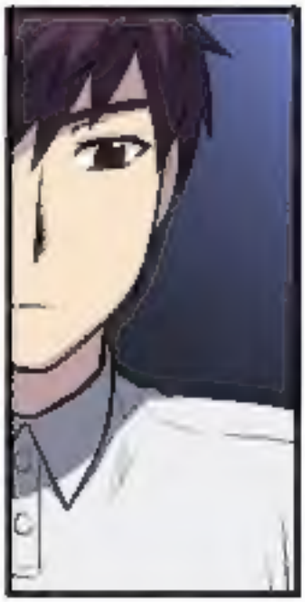
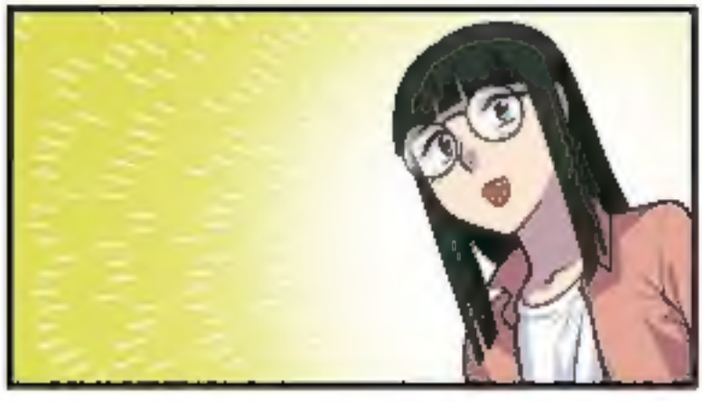
THE GAMER

STORY BY SANGYOUNG SEONG
ILLUST BY SANG-A



WHEW...
I GUESS
I HAVE NO
CHOICE.
ALRIGHT.
I'LL HELP
YOU.



BUT... I KNOW
I ALREADY SAID THIS,
BUT WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO DO?
I WANT TO
GET STRONGER.
GET
STRONGER?

YEAH.
IN THE ABYSS...
STRENGTH TRIUMPHS
OVER ALL, RIGHT?
PEOPLE KILL
EACH OTHER
AND STUFF...
THAT'S
TRUE.

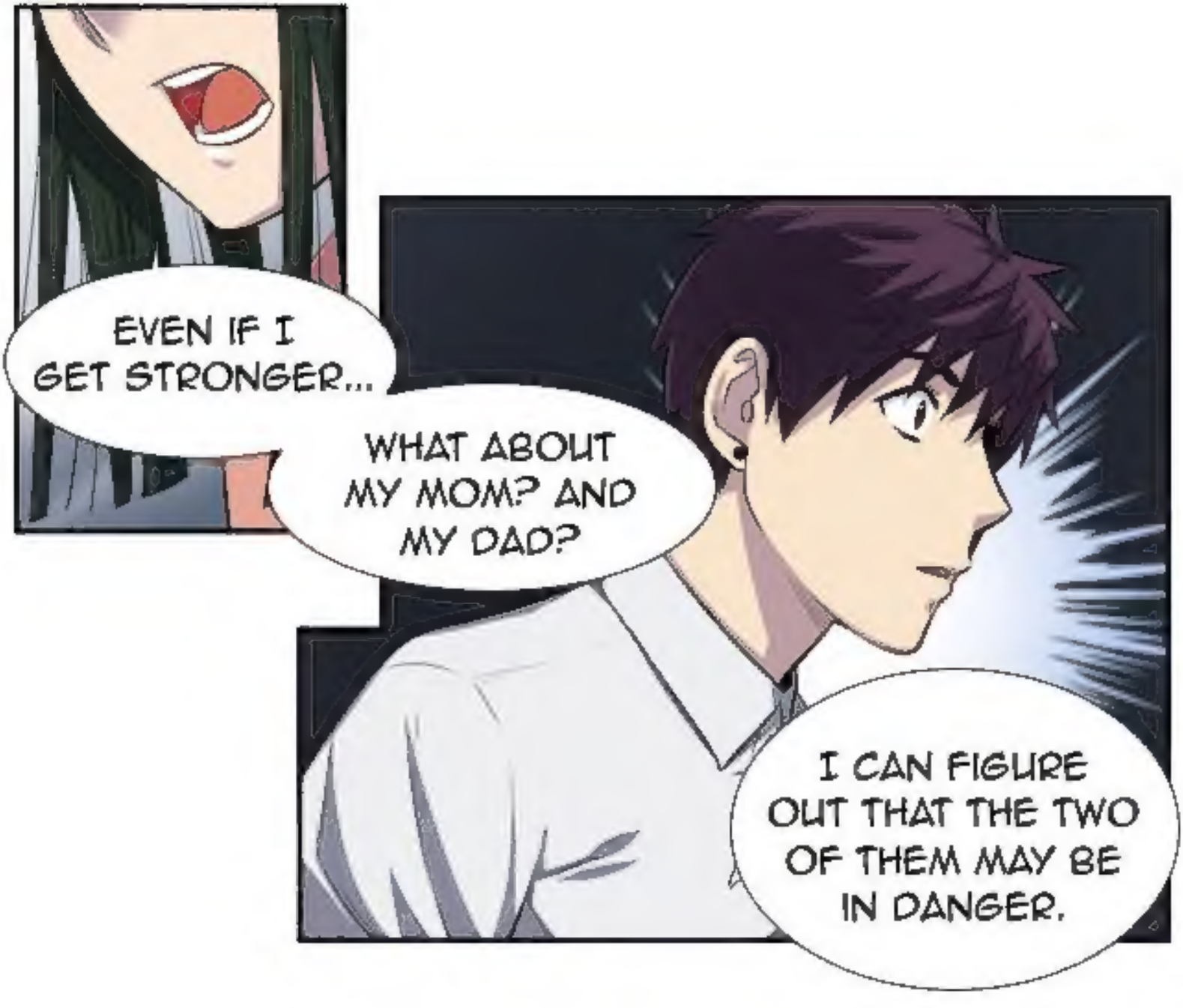
I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THE EASIEST WAY TO SURVIVE THERE WOULD BE.
IN THE END, THE ONLY ANSWER IS TO GET STRONGER.

YOU'RE ALREADY SAFE ENOUGH NOW.
SINCE SEONIL'S FAMILY HAS TAKEN CARE OF IT.

I KNOW.
ON A
RATIONAL
LEVEL,
I UNDERSTAND
COMPLETELY.

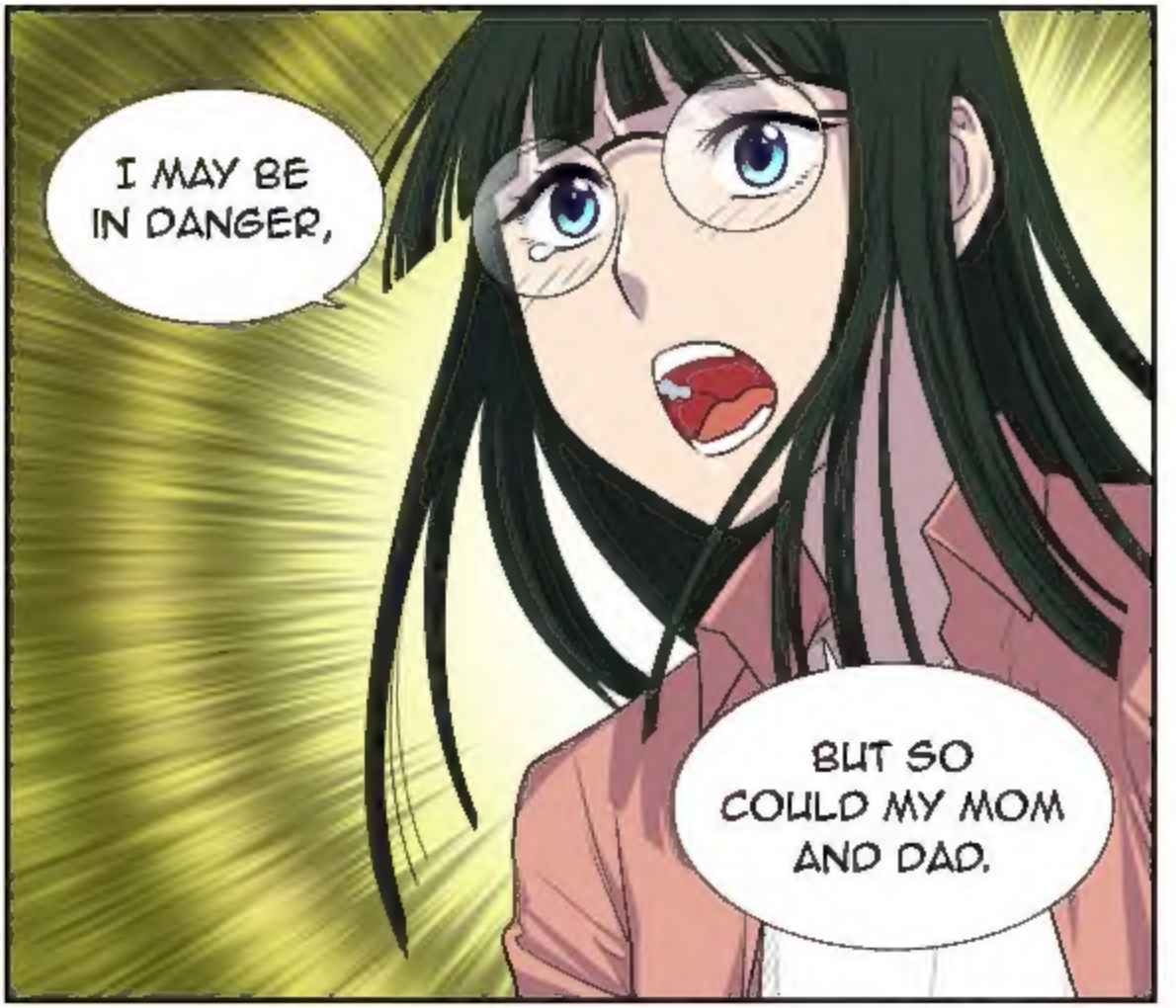
BUT IT'S MY
EMOTIONS AND
SUBCONSCIOUS
THAT ARE THE
PROBLEM.
I'M NOT
STUPID.

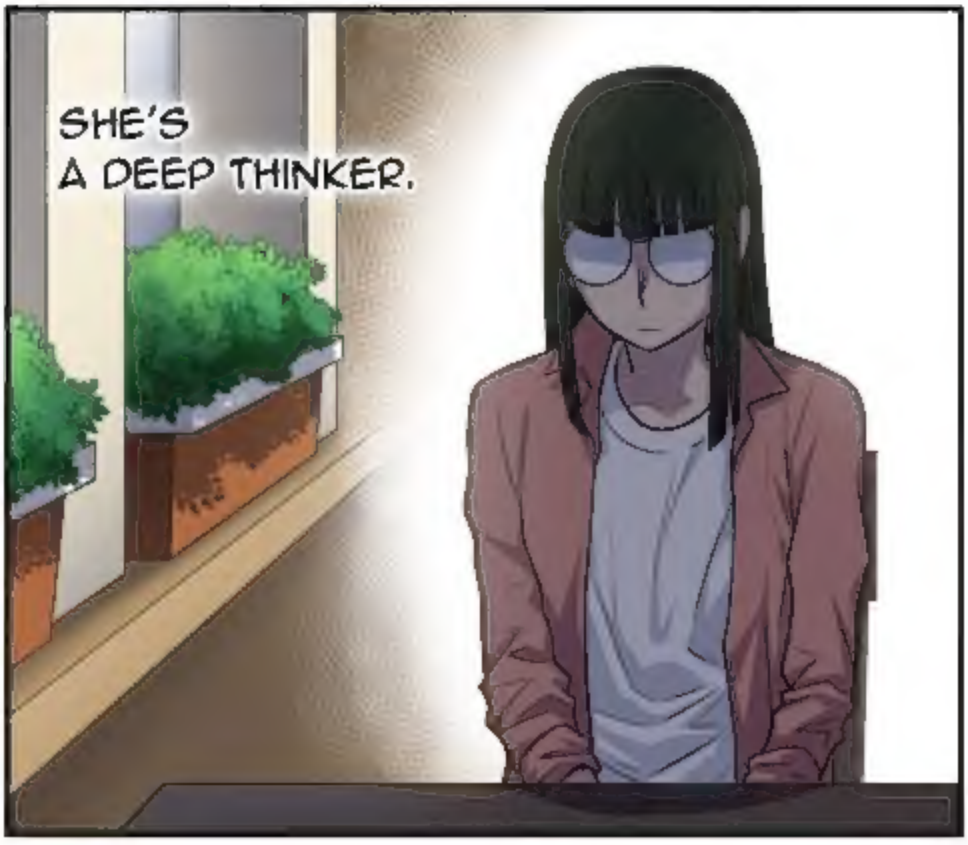
WHAT?


EVEN IF I GET STRONGER...
WHAT ABOUT MY MOM? AND MY DAD?
I CAN FIGURE OUT THAT THE TWO OF THEM MAY BE IN DANGER.

I UNDERSTAND THAT SEONIL'S FAMILY HAS HELPED TO PROTECT THIS AREA FROM THAT KIND OF THING.
BUT MY SUBCONSCIOUS JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THAT.

AND EVEN
IF I'M FINE LIKE
THAT RIGHT NOW,
WHAT ABOUT IN
THE FUTURE?


I MAY BE IN DANGER,
BUT SO COULD MY MOM AND DAD.


SHE'S
A DEEP THINKER.

COME TO THINK OF IT...
I DIDN'T EVEN
WORRY ABOUT
MY PARENTS...

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GET STRONGER.
I'M GOING TO GET STRONGER, SO THAT I CAN PROTECT MYSELF AND MY PARENTS...

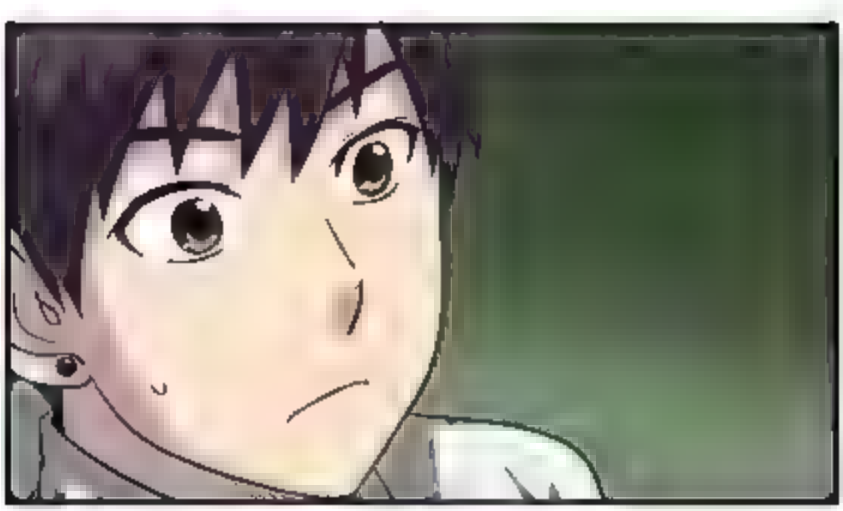
ARE YOU SURE... THAT'S NOT A BIT SHORT-SIGHTED?
THE STRONGER YOU GET, AND THE MORE YOU GET EXPOSED TO THE ABYSS, THE MORE YOU PUT YOURSELF AT RISK.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, DANGER WILL STILL EXIST.

THEN IT'S BETTER TO BE STRONG.

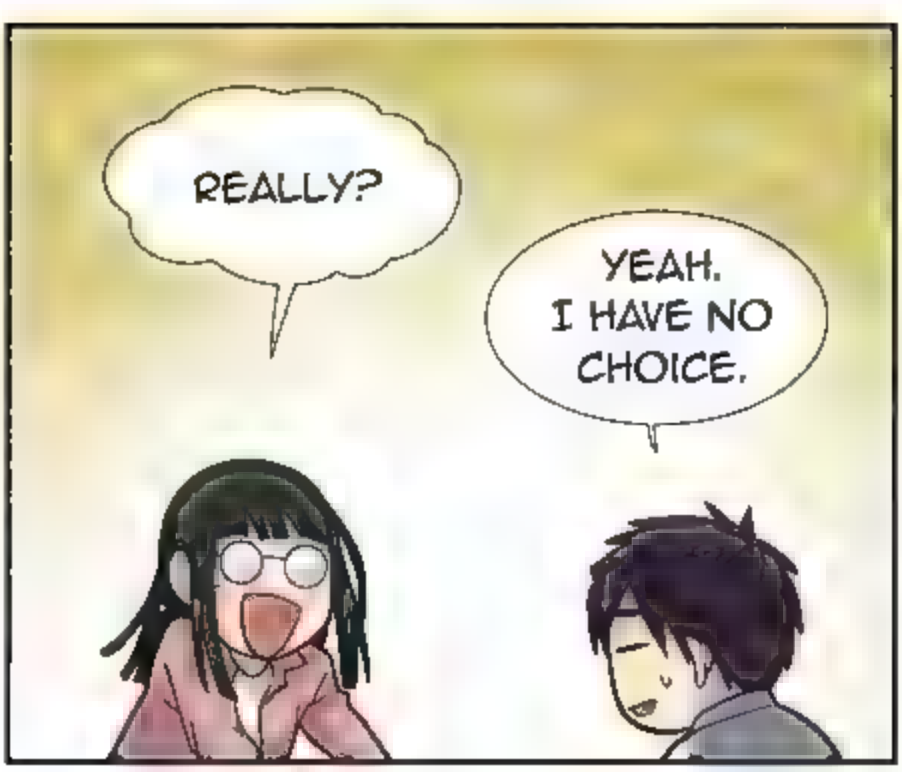
ISN'T THERE A SAYING THAT WE LEARN IN HISTORY CLASS?

IF YOU WANT PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR.

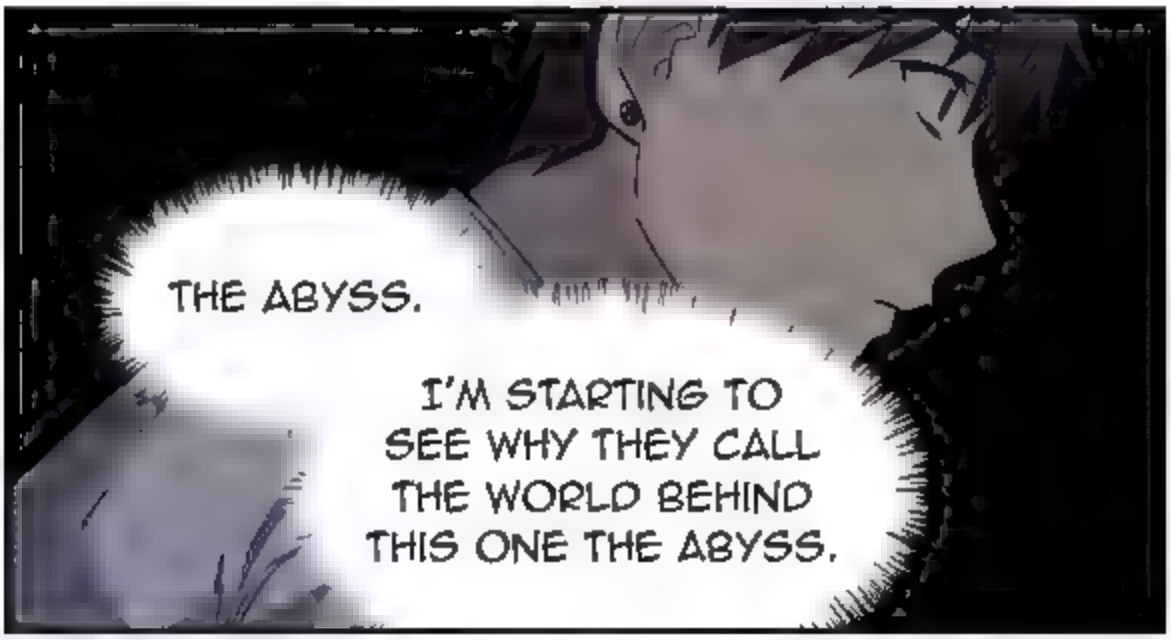

AAA

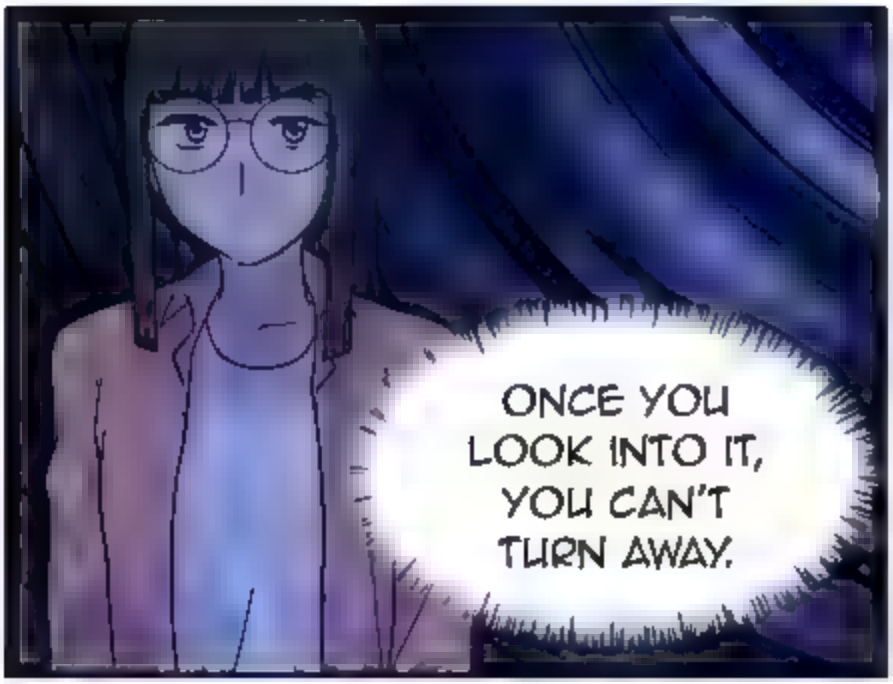
WHEW-

ALRIGHT.
LET'S DO IT.


REALLY?
YEAH.
I HAVE NO
CHOICE.

WHEN YOU GAZE INTO THE ABYSS, THE ABYSS ALSO GAZES INTO YOU.
NIETZSCHE ONCE SAID THAT...


THE ABYSS.
I'M STARTING TO SEE WHY THEY CALL THE WORLD BEHIND THIS ONE THE ABYSS.

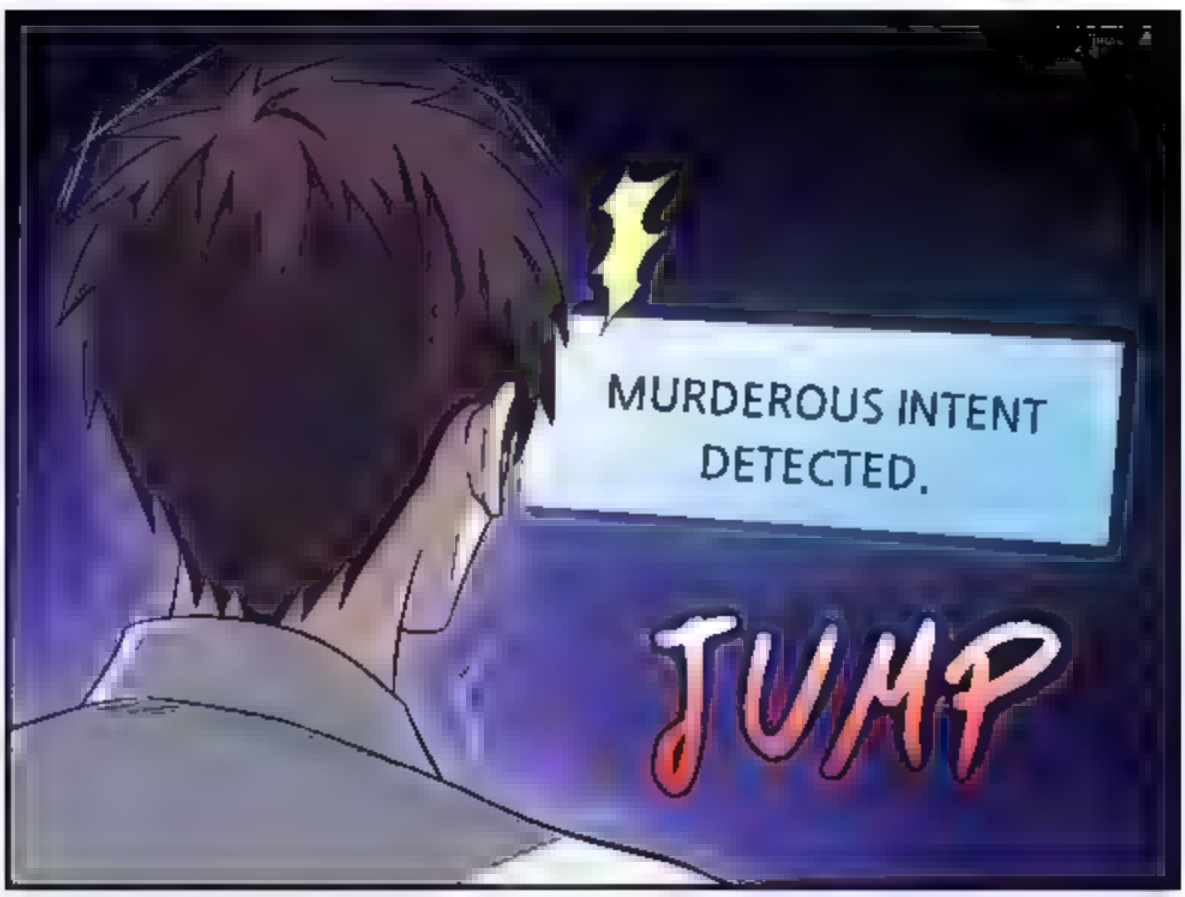

ONCE YOU LOOK INTO IT, YOU CAN'T TURN AWAY.

MAKE SURE YOU BRACE YOURSELF FOR WHAT'S COMING.
THERE'S A LOT OF DANGER INVOLVED.

I'LL TRY TO TOUGHEN UP.

GOOD.
THAT'S ALL
YOU NEED.

DING


MURDEROUS INTENT
DETECTED.
JUMP

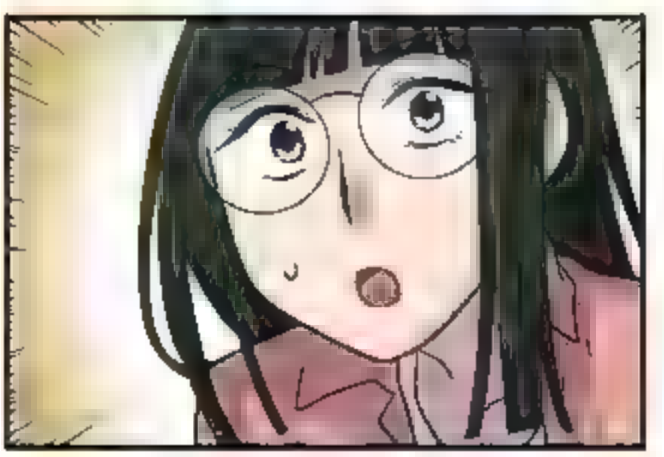
WHAT?! MURDEROUS INTENT?!
RATTLE
JUMP

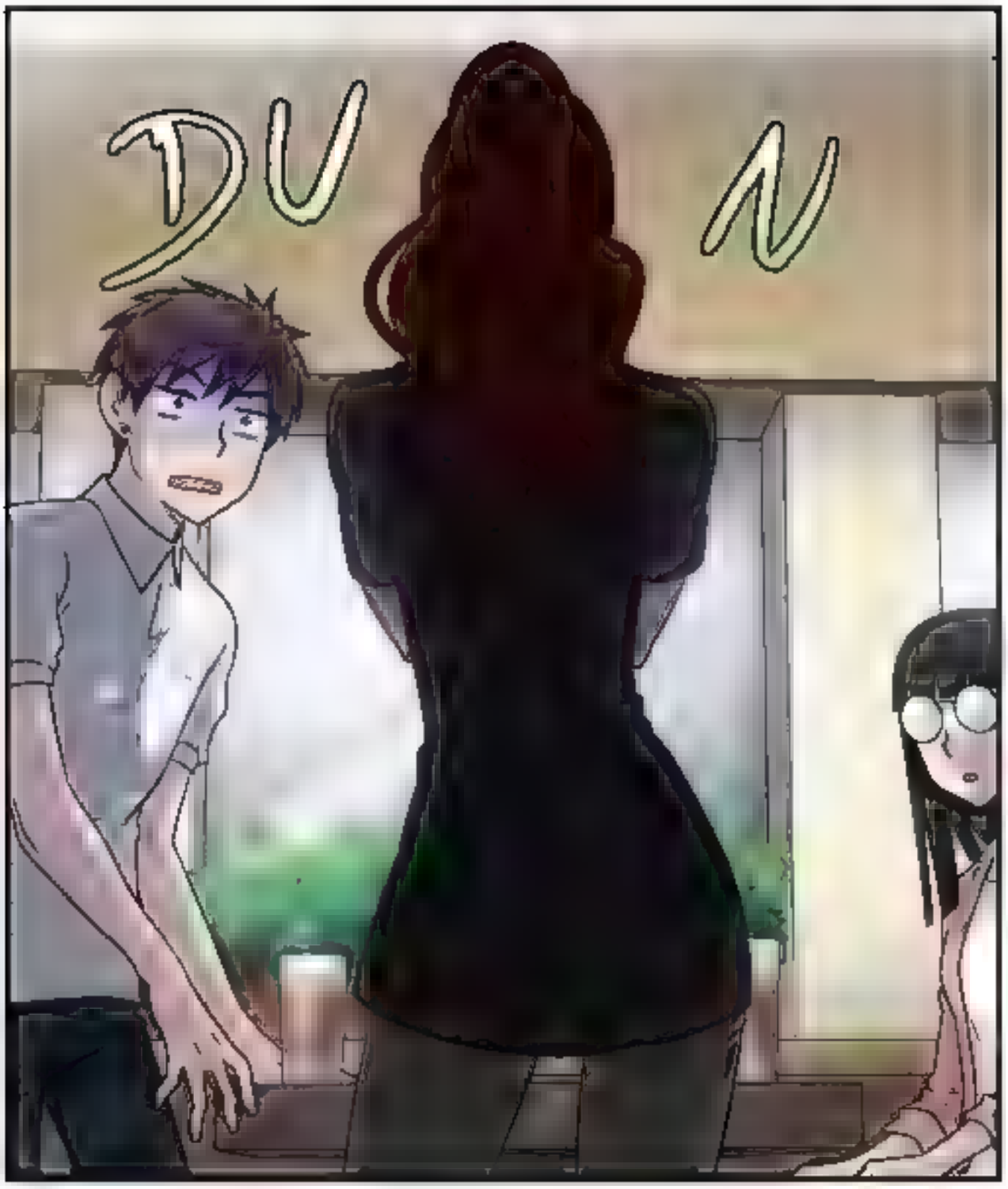
W-WHAT'S WRONG, JIHAN?

IS IT ANOTHER ENEMY?
BUT I THOUGHT CHEON BU CLAN HAD SET UP A BARRIER AROUND THIS AREA.

STEP
COULD IT BE A HIGH-RANKER ...?

UGH!



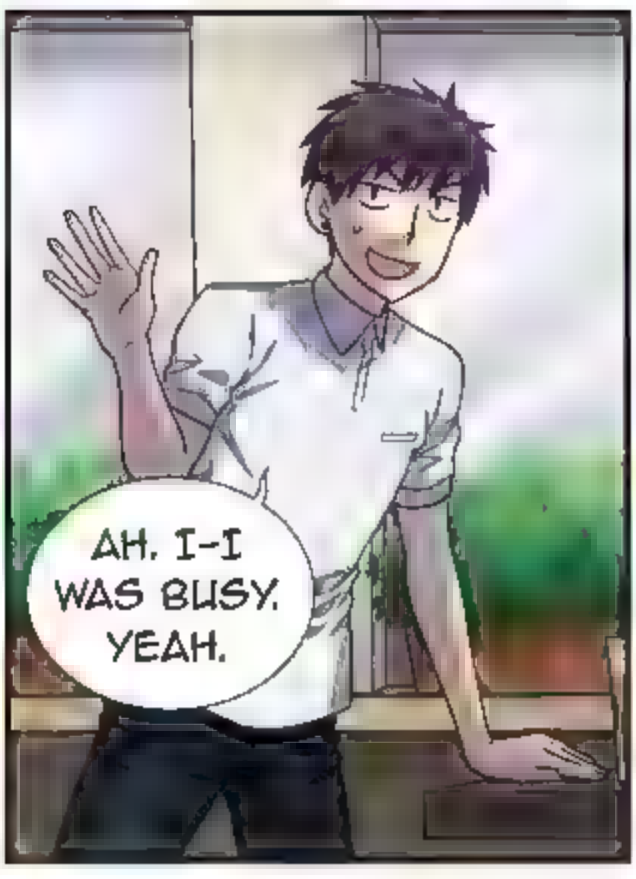

DU
N

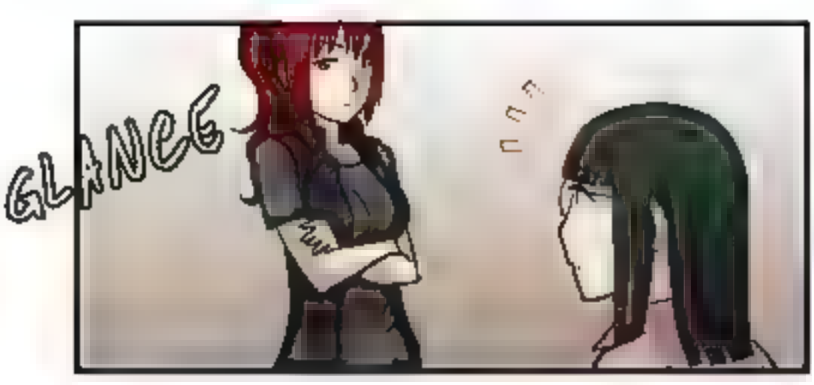
THE GAMER

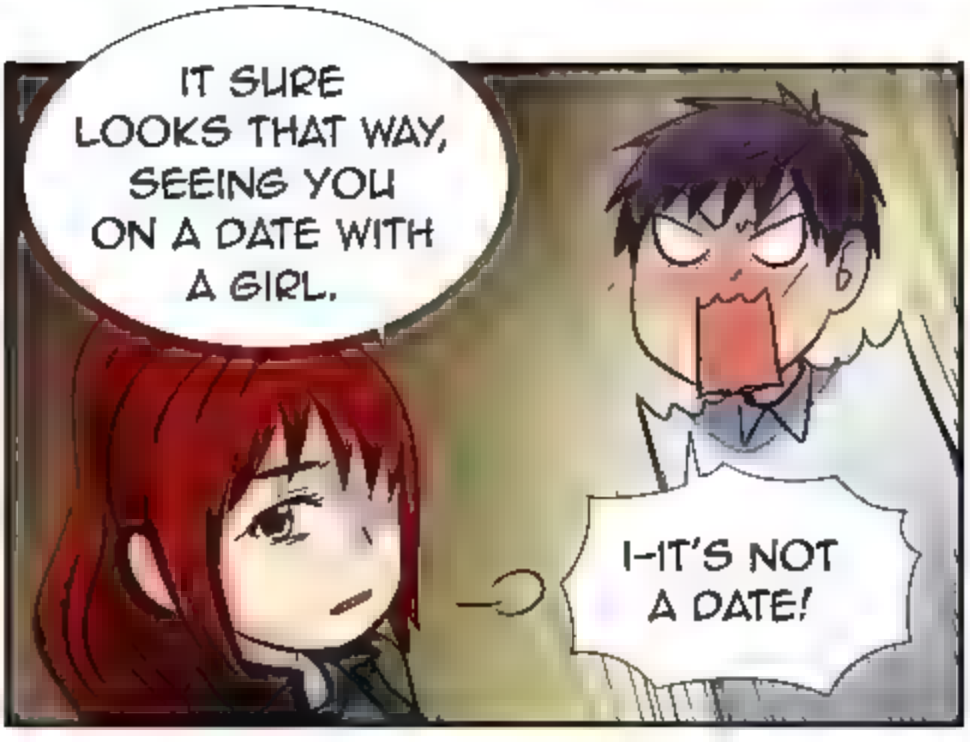
LONG TIME NO SEE, JIHAN.

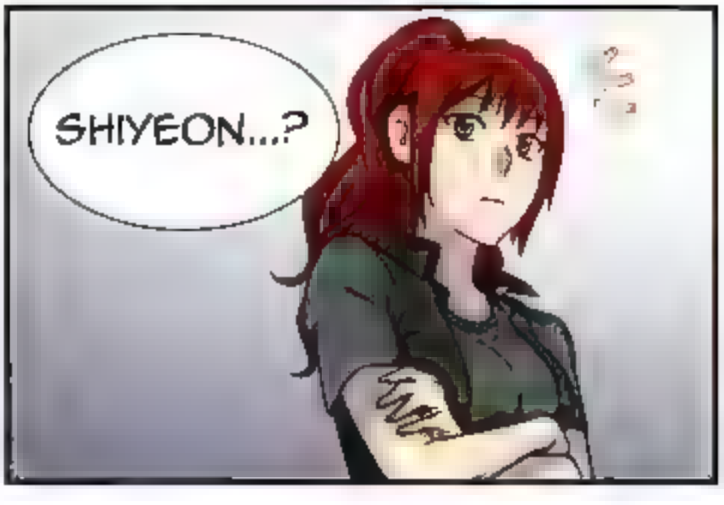
AH, YEAH. LONG TIME NO SEE.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE BUSY SINCE I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU LATELY.


AH. I-I WAS BUSY. YEAH.

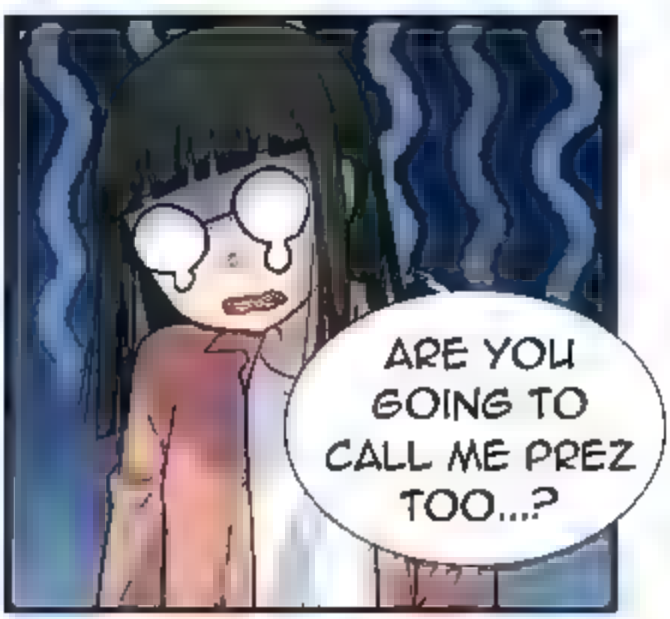

GLANCE


IT SURE LOOKS THAT WAY, SEEING YOU ON A DATE WITH A GIRL.
I-IT'S NOT A DATE!


SHIYEON...?

ARE YOU FROM THE ABYSS TOO?

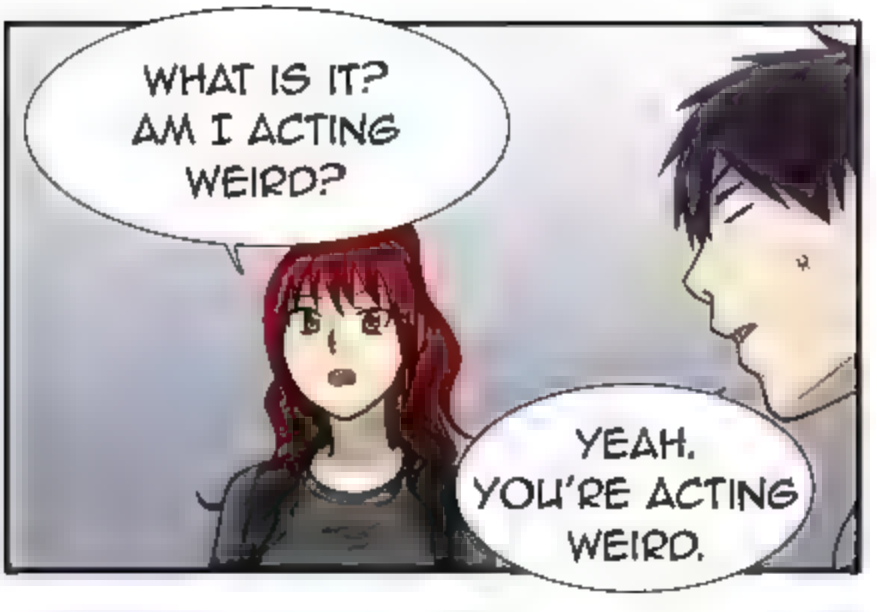
LONG TIME NO SEE, PREZ.


ARE YOU GOING TO CALL ME PREZ TOO...?

ISN'T THAT YOUR NAME?
THUD

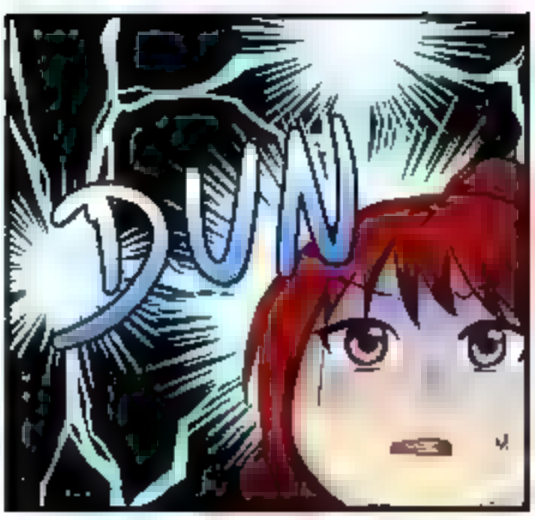
SHIYEON, YOU'RE JUST JOKING, RIGHT? HM? PLEASE SAY THAT WAS A JOKE.
IT MAY NOT BE FUNNY, BUT JUST TELL ME IT WAS A JOKE.
TILT
WHAT'S WRONG?

HEY JIHAN.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER,
BUT SHE SEEMS... KIND OF WEIRD.
SHE IS WEIRD.

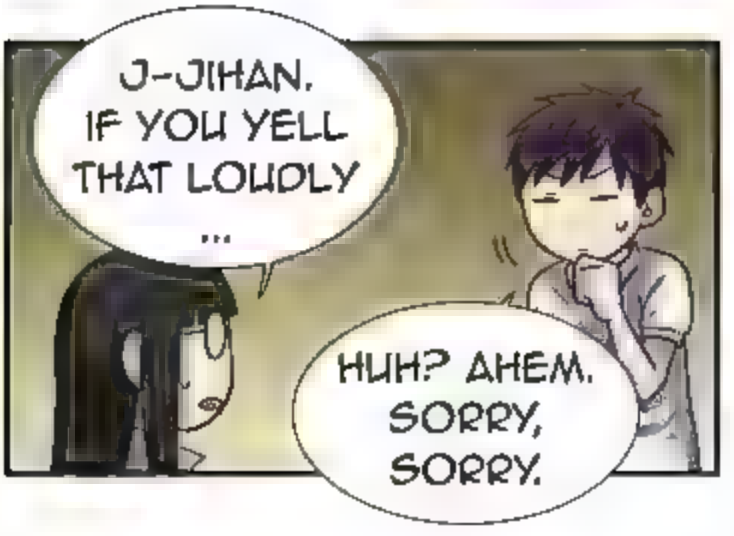

WHAT IS IT? AM I ACTING WEIRD?
YEAH. YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD.

HM.

I THOUGHT I ACTED JUST LIKE ANY OTHER NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...
NOT AT ALL. WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EVEN TALKS LIKE THAT?
CLEARLY! NOT AT ALL. WHAT KIND OF STUDENT WOULD THINK THAT THE NAME OF THE CLASS PRESIDENT IS ACTUALLY PREZ?


DUN

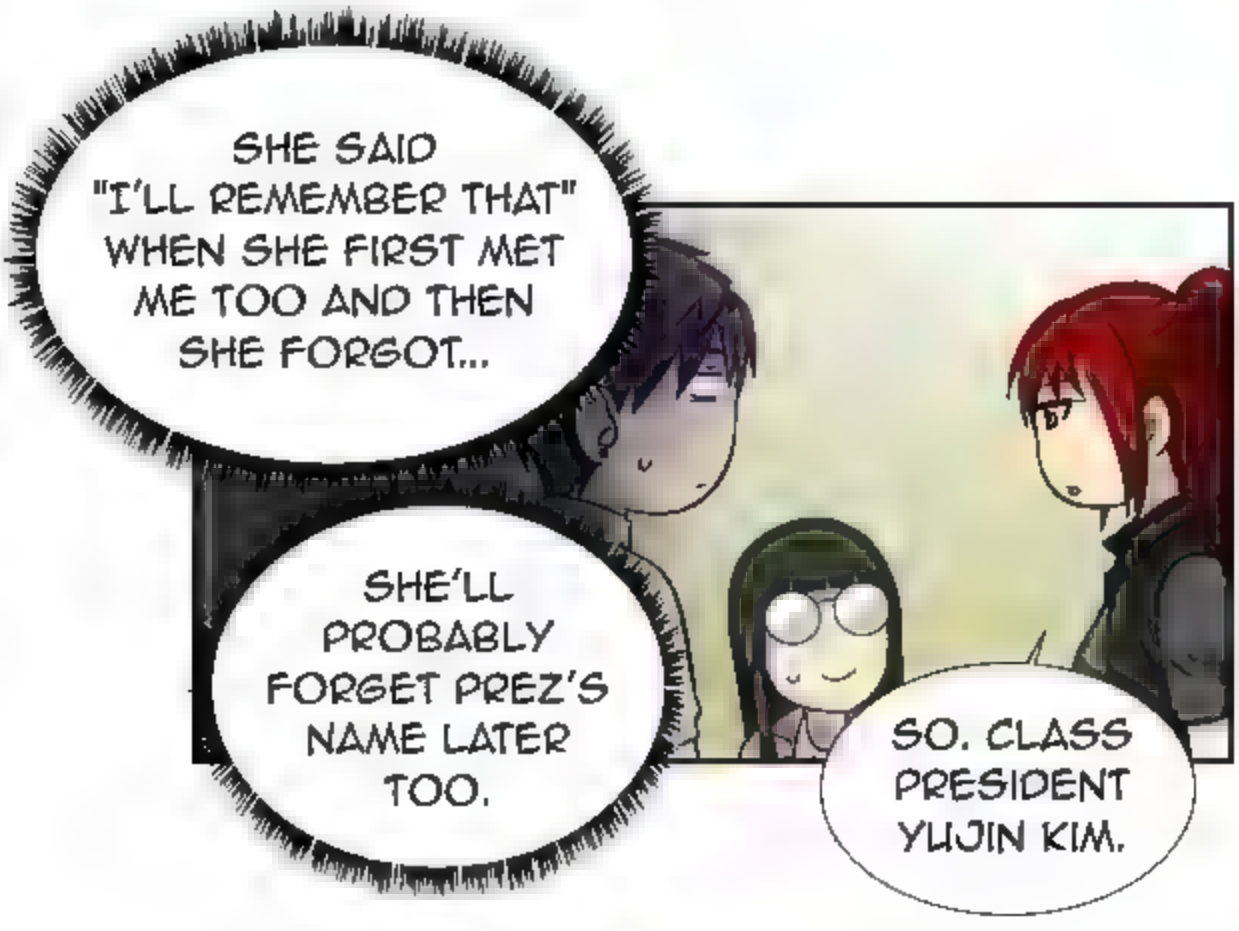
THE CLASS PRESIDENT'S NAME ISN'T PREZ? THIS CAN'T BE...
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE MAKING THAT FACE IS EVEN MORE OF A SHOCK!

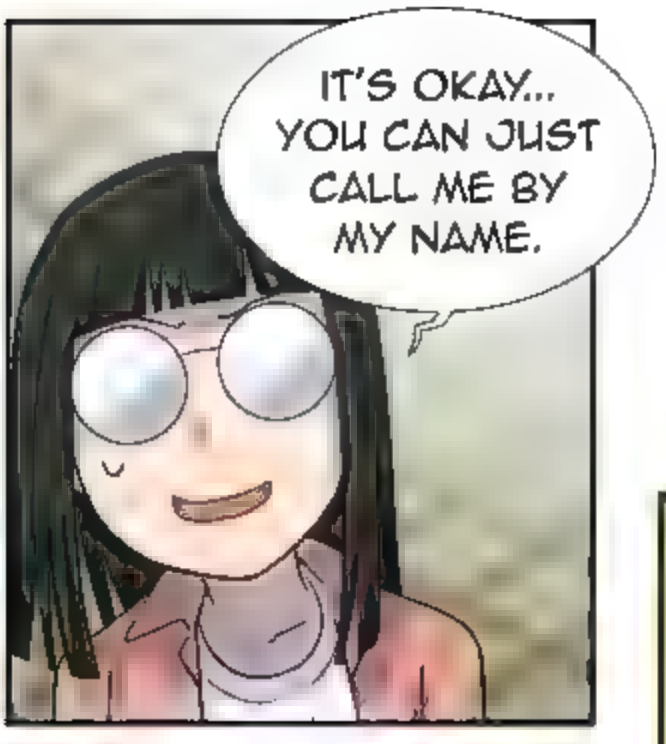

J-JIHAN. IF YOU YELL THAT LOUDLY ...
HUH? AHEM. SORRY, SORRY.

HM... THEN WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

IT'S YUJIN KIM.

YUJIN KIM.
I'LL REMEMBER
THAT.


SHE SAID
"I'LL REMEMBER THAT"
WHEN SHE FIRST MET
ME TOO AND THEN
SHE FORGOT...
SHE'LL
PROBABLY
FORGET PREZ'S
NAME LATER
TOO.
SO. CLASS
PRESIDENT
YUJIN KIM.


IT'S OKAY... YOU CAN JUST CALL ME BY MY NAME.

THEN YUJIN KIM.
DO YOU HAVE TO SAY MY LAST NAME TOO?

YUJIN.
GIGGLE GIGGLE
IT'S LIKE WATCHING A COMEDY SHOW.

GLANCE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THIS PLAYER?
PFF!

HEY! I'VE NEVER EVEN DATED A GIRL YET! WHY WOULD YOU CALL ME A PLAYER?! HUH?

DIDN'T YOU KISS A GIRL WITHOUT EVEN DATING HER?
I NEVER.....

DING

MURDEROUS INTE
HUH.....?

WELL WELL~

LOOKS LIKE JIHAN WILL GO AROUND KISSING ANY GIRL.
CRACK

LINE Webtoon